1:Spier E-5 (1929-1932) 1933 NT15 River Yumans NT15

Maricopa
Halchidhoma

As between Halchidhoma and Maricopa, the former, situated on the banks of the Colorado, were undoubtedly greater fishermen.[19] The information which follows relates specifically to the Halchidhoma in their Colorado River home. Maricopa habits were identical. 226

Native statements of the amount of fishing are borne out by Kino, who wrote of the middle Gila (February, 1699): "All its inhabitants are fishermen, and have many nets and other tackle with which they fish all the year, sustaining themselves with abundant fish and with their maize, beans, and calabashes, etc. . . . . In some places they gave us so much and so very good fish that we gave it as a ration to the men, just as beef is given where it is plentiful."[20] [175]

The Maricopa took fish mostly in the Santa Cruz slough at the northern foot of the Sierra Estrella. They also fished about the confluence of the Gila and Salt, and up the Salt to the vicinity of Phoenix. This point was, of course, close to enemy territory, hence many men were killed while fishing. Fish were few in the Gila except in times of flood. The fish of these streams were chiefly chub, a soft fleshed, bony fish. The Halchidhoma on the Colorado also caught a very large fish, which may have been the "Colorado salmon." [136]

Three methods were commonly employed for fishing on the Colorado. A small net like a rabbit net (and like it called ca'a'k) was used when the river was high and muddy so that one could not see fish in it. It was held spread out between the hands, aided by a little stick at each side threaded through the meshes, so that the fisherman might reach down and catch at a chance. Another method was by diving to look into beaver holes and the like under the bank where fishes took refuge when it was cold. One man after another dove down, catching the fish in his hands. A third was with large nets (called davi'tc), six to eight feet long and a yard deep. These were very valuable since it was hard to spin so much cotton cord. A pole was fastened at each end, so that it could be held vertically by two men who dragged it through shallow water. Several such nets might be dragged side by side. Other men would walk through the water scaring the [227] [227]

[19] The Mohave also fished more than they hunted (Kroeber, *Preliminary Sketch of the Mohave*, p. 276).

[20] Bolton, *Kino's Historical Memoir*, I, 195, 197.

1:Spier E-5 (1929-1932) 1933 NT15 River Yumans NT15
Maricopa
Halchidhoma

fish into the nets. The Maricopa used nets like these in the Salt River. There can be little doubt that the Halchidhoma used fish scoops like Mohave and Maricopa.

The fish scoop of the Maricopa was like that of the Mohave[21] but smaller (Pl. IV, *e*). An elliptical hoop of willow, three feet by eighteen inches, was provided with a series of longitudinal willow twigs bound to it. A long handle was fastened transversely to the hoop. A mate to this was a conical basket of willow twigs slung on the fisherman's back by a forehead band of rolled willow bark (Pl. IV, *d*). In form and construction it resembled the traveling mortar (Pl. XIV, *c*), having a willow hoop to which the twigs were bound. These were also bound together at the point and fastened on the side by several rows of twining. The small fish caught with the scoop were thrown over the shoulder into this basket. The scoop was called kwisŏ'tc; the basket kŭpârω'c.

Spearing was unknown to the Halchidhoma and shooting fish not regularly employed. When the large "salmon" were caught, the net was almost torn to pieces. Then all the men joined in capturing it. It might be shot when driven into shallow water. Maricopa also shot fish in the shallow sloughs of their country. Such arrows did not have retrieving lines attached.

Young boys fished with cotton lines attached to the ends of long poles. Their hooks were the curved spines of the barrel cactus, heated and bent. A hole was drilled in the butt to take the line. These were baited with worms. The lines were further furnished with floats of wood or pumice, said usually to have been crescentic, like one collected (Pl. XII, *b*). This, which had been found in a local ruin, was of a light vesicular stone and had been drilled through the middle so that the points stood vertically.[22]

Such boats as they had on the Colorado for fishing and ferryage were merely rafts formed of bundles of dry tules. My informant did not know how they were shaped. Such rafts might hold ten men and their nets. Sometimes an unshaped log was used: the Maricopa also used this. Catamarans (kopŏ'p) were

[21] Kroeber, *Handbook*, p. 737. [22] Washington State Museum, No. 2–11926.

1:Spier E-5 (1929-1932) 1933 NT15 River Yumans NT15
Maricopa

PLATE IV

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DRESS AND FISHING BASKETS

(*a*, Man's breechclout of willowbark; *b*, woman's skirt; *c*, hairbrush; *d*, fisherman's basket; *e*, fishing scoop)

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Maricopa

PLATE XII

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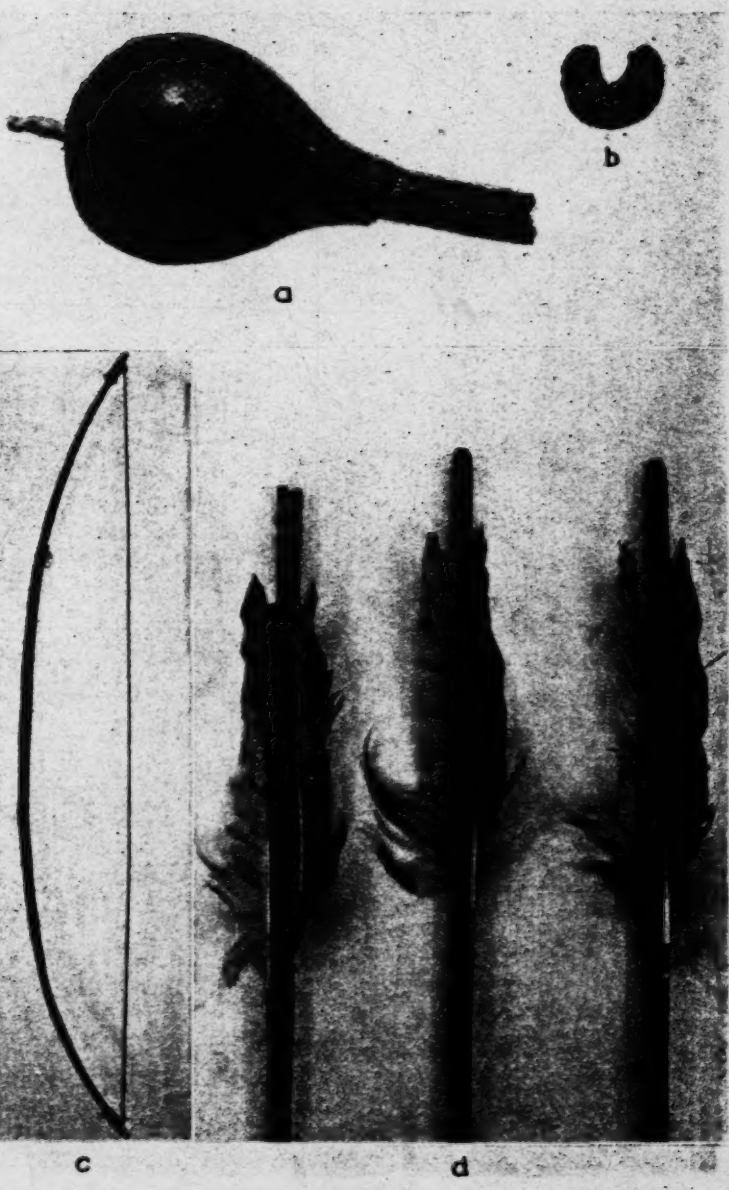

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GOURD RATTLE, FISHING FLOAT, AND HUNTING BOW AND ARROWS

[FACING P. 133]